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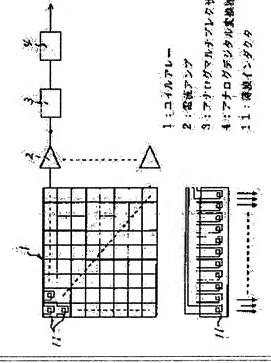
SANO YASUKAZU

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(54) COIN DISCRIMINATION DEVICE

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve authenticity judgement performance by detecting a fine pattern of a coin high discrimination. SOLUTION: A coil alley 1 is constituted of a thin-film inductor 11 on the coin judgment device, to discriminate authenticity of a coin 8, by arranging a plural number of the coil alleys 1 on a side surface in the thickness direction of a passage passing the coin 8, detecting a change in the self-inductance of the coil arrays 1, accompanying the passing of the coin 8 and discriminating the pattern of the coin 8 from the change.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the coin differentiation equipment used for an automatic vending machine etc.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The equipment shown in <u>drawing 7</u> is known as conventional coin differentiation equipment. Since the dimension of a detection sensor was not able to detect the fine large pattern of a coin, truth-orfalsehood distinction was difficult for this conventional technique. That is, in <u>drawing 7</u>, when the discrete coil 15 arranged at the path 7 of a coin 8 used one side as the coil for dispatch, and used another side as the coil for reception and a coin passed through between a dispatch coil and a receiver coil by the principle of a transformer, the coin 8 was detected because a mutual inductance changes.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, the conventional technique mentioned above wanted resolution for a coil being discrete and the dimension of a coil looking at the pattern of a coin greatly as mentioned above, therefore improvement in the truth-or-falsehood judging engine performance by improvement in detection power was demanded. Then, this invention tends to offer the high resolution coin differentiation equipment which can detect the fine pattern of a coin.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, invention of claim 1 arranges two or more coil arrays in the thickness direction side face of the path through which a coin passes, detects change of the self-inductance of the coil array accompanying coin passage, and is characterized by to constitute a coil array by the thin film inductor in the coin differentiation equipment which distinguishes the truth or falsehood of a coin by distinguishing the pattern of a coin from the change. Thus, invention of claim 1 realizes a high resolution by having considered the coil array as the thin film inductance array configuration using a thin film technology, and having miniaturized the dimension of coil each substantially as compared with the coil according to conventional individual. The current which flows since self-inductances differ when the principle regards the current which impresses AC power supply to each coil, and flows in a coil as a detecting signal and the distance from a coil to a coin differs changes. Since the target coin is conveyed for inspection, the distance to a coin can be regarded as change according to the pattern of a coin. Of course, since a self-inductance changes with construction material or permeability, the construction material check of a coin is also possible by catching the self-inductance change accompanying this.

[0005] Invention of claim 2 is characterized by equipping with the coil array for surface detection of a coin, and the coil array for rear-face detection the thickness direction both sides of the path through which a coin passes, respectively in invention of claim 1.

[0006] Invention of claim 3 is characterized by having arranged two or more coil arrays for dispatch in one side of the thickness direction side face of the path through which a coin passes, and arranging the coil array for two or more reception in the side face of another side in invention of claim 1. That is, invention of claim 3 is equipped with the 2nd coil array which is in the 1st coil array which generates a magnetic-flux array, this, and the location which countered, and detects flux reversal, in case a coin passes through medium, it has the composition of regarding change of the mutual inductance between these coil arrays as a current signal, and thereby, it detects irregularity of both sides of a coin simultaneously. Of course, since the currents which flow in a coil with the permeability of coin construction material differ, it is also possible to perform construction material detection of a coin with this configuration.

[0007] Invention of claim 4 is characterized by making a coil array into a linear array in invention given in any 1 term

of claims 1-3. That is, invention of claim 4 arms at the cost cut of a coil array as a later array which has arranged the coil array on a straight line. Considering that the target coin is moving, by detecting the output current from each coil of a linear array in order by the analog multiplexer, the shape of a linear is scanned and the complete scan of a coin is performed by arranging so that a scanning direction and the migration direction of a coin may make a vertical include angle.

[0008] Invention of claim 5 is characterized by making a coil array into an area array in invention given in any 1 term of claims 1-3. Thus, when invention of claim 5 was in the field of an area array, it enabled it to detect the irregularity of a coin, even if a coin to be examined did not move fundamentally by making a coil array into an area array. That is, since a coil array is driven by AC power supply, if it puts in another way with the distance from the outgoing radiation side of the magnetic flux of a coil to a coin front face, the signal current will change with irregularity, and if the signal from each coil is detected, concavo-convex detection of the whole coin surface will be attained.

[0009] Invention of claim 6 is set to invention given in any 1 term of claims 1-5. A means to compute the silhouette of a coin by comparing an array signal in case a coin is in an array signal in case there is no coin into the visual field of a coil array, and a visual field, A means to trichotomize the obtained silhouette, to compute the average of the array signal of each division silhouette, and to compute the dip direction over the coil array side of a coin, and whenever [tilt-angle] from the ratio or difference of the average, A coin reproduces a condition parallel to a coil array side from the value of the obtained dip, and it is characterized by having a means to perform truth-or-falsehood distinction. [0010] When it puts in another way, invention of claim 6 is for a signal operation amending the position over the coil array of a coin, and raising the differentiation engine performance. That is, in the case of the method by the self-inductance, since the current which flows in each coil of a coil array by the existence of a coin first has a big difference in a current signal, it can detect the appearance of a coin. The appearance of the detected coin, i.e., the configuration of a silhouette, will serve as an ellipse, if the coin leans from the coil array side. Therefore, even if it carries out signal detection in the condition of this as, the irregularity on the front face of a coin is undetectable in character. [0011] Then, the obtained ellipse silhouette is divided into three fields two-dimensional, the signal from each coil of

[0011] Then, the obtained ellipse silhouette is divided into three fields two-dimensional, the signal from each coil of the coil array of each field is detected, and the average is detected. Since the signal current generally becomes small so that a coin keeps away from a coil array front face, if the average is measured, the relative mean distance of the field to a coin is known. Here, since there are three fields, the three averages will be acquired. If each acquired average is equal, the coin front face and the coil array front face are parallel. It will incline, when size is in the average, and whenever [dip direction / of a coin / and tilt-angle] is obtained by calculating each ratio or difference.

[0012] Next, if theta is obtained whenever [dip direction / of a coin / and tilt-angle], only 1-/costheta will expand a magnetic picture signal in the direction of a minor axis of an ellipse silhouette. Namely, although it is an extreme example It considers as theta= 60 degrees. Among four coils in the silhouette of the direction of a minor axis From the 1st coil to 1mA When 0.9mA is obtained from 1.2mA from the 2nd coil, 0.8mA from the 3rd coil, and the 4th coil, It converts as the signal is acquired from 1/cos60 degree=2, i.e., four coil x2=8 ** coils. 0.9mA shall be obtained from 1mA from the 1st and 2nd coil, 1.2mA from the 3rd and 4 coil, 0.8mA from the 5th and 6 coil, and the 7th and 8 coil. By doing in this way, the dip to the coil array of a coin can be amended and an exact magnetic picture signal can be acquired.

[0013] Invention of claim 7 is characterized by having the core which becomes the thin film inductor which constitutes a coil array from the magnetic substance in invention of claim 1-6 given in any 1 term. That is, although invention of claim 7 is usually an air core, it is characterized by using the core which consists of the magnetic substance so that magnetic reluctance may be reduced and magnetic flux may run against a coin efficiently, and, thereby, can make the signal current, as for a thin film inductor, increase.

[0014] Invention of claim 8 is characterized by carrying out two or more laminatings of the thin film inductor which constitutes a coil array in invention of claim 1-7 given in any 1 term. Thus, by carrying out the laminating of the thin film inductor, invention of claim 8 makes a coil inductance increase, and, thereby, aims at the increment in the signal current.

[0015] Invention of claim 9 is characterized by making the outgoing line of a coil array into the grid-of-pins array structure of a penetration mold in invention of claim 1-8 given in any 1 term. That is, invention of claim 9 is invention about the outgoing line of the coil which poses a problem, when manufacturing a coil array actually, pulls out the outgoing line of a coil as grid-of-pins array structure in a magnetic-flux shaft and this direction, and is characterized by in response even the amplifier for current amplification wiring by a multilayer printed circuit board or a multilayer silicon substrate.

[0016] Invention of claim 10 is set to invention of claim 1-9 given in any 1 term. A means to change into two or more concentric circle scan signals on the basis of the core of a coin the signal acquired from each coil array, It is

characterized by having a means to compose spatial frequency spectrum by carrying out the Fourier transform of the acquired concentric circle scan signal, and the means which carries out truth-or-falsehood distinction as compared with the spatial-frequency-spectrum pattern of the criterion which memorized the computed spatial frequency spectrum beforehand. That is, invention of claim 10 relates to signal processing.

[0017] Usually, since a coin rotates and is conveyed in the field, it needs to perform spin compensation as a magnetic picture signal, and it needs to perform truth-or-falsehood distinction. Then, in order that this invention may perform spin compensation, by starting the acquired picture signal in the shape of [two or more] a concentric circle, and performing spatial-frequency analysis of two or more of these picture signal trains, it is unrelated to a revolution and a spectrum peculiar to the classification of a coin is obtained. Subsequently, the spatial-frequency-spectrum pattern is beforehand memorized as a standard pattern for every classification of a coin, and the classification judging of a coin and a truth-or-falsehood judging are carried out with pattern matching with this.

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the operation gestalt of this invention is explained along drawing. <u>Drawing 1</u>, <u>drawing 2</u>, and <u>drawing 3</u> are the block diagrams showing the operation gestalt corresponding to invention of claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. In <u>drawing 1</u>, the coil array 1 is an area array and is constituted by the thin film inductor 11. The ends of the coil array 1 are connected to the current amplifier 2, after an amplifier output is changed by the analog multiplexer 3, carries out sequential detection of the signal current from each coil array 1 and being changed into a digital signal by the analog-to-digital converter 4, it is sent to the microcomputer which is not illustrated and a truth-orfalsehood judging is performed.

[0019] This coil array 1 is considering as small coil array structure using a thin film inductor which is reported in the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan seminar MAG 99-41 "a thin film inductor one apparatus DC to DC converter" (based on Nakazawa and others), and is raising detection power. Moreover, the direction of the magnetic flux generated from the coil array 1 is constituted so that it may become in the direction vertical to a coil side. Drawing 2 shows the detail of a circuit. Since each coil array 1 should pass the capacitor 6 to which alternating current is impressed by AC power supply 5, it is amplified with the current amplifier 2 and serves as a voltage signal. [0020] By preparing this circuit only several minutes of the coil array 1, the signal current from each coil array 1 is detected. When the coil array 1 detects access or current change which flows in a coil since the permeability changes with the irregularity on the front face of a coin, or the construction material of a coin and a self-inductance changes when separating and in the location where the coin 8 which has had the inside of the conveyance way 7 conveyed as shown in drawing 3 countered the coil side, a magnetic picture signal is acquired.

[0021] Moreover, if the coil array 1 of an above-mentioned self-inductance change detection mold is arranged to both sides of a coin 8 as shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, both sides of a coin are simultaneously detectable. Furthermore, although not carried out, if it has structure which a coin 8 moves by the conveyance way 7 even if the coil array 1 is a linear linear array, especially a graphic display can scan the front face of a coin, and can acquire a magnetic picture signal. In this case, since the number of the coil arrays 1 and the number of the current amplifier 2 become fewer, the cost cut of a sensor is attained.

[0022] Next, an operation gestalt is explained about invention of claim 3 using <u>drawing 3</u>. One side of the coil array 1 in both sides of a coin 8 may consider as the coil array 1 driven to AC power supply, and there may not be the current amplifier 2. The coil array 1 of another side shall make AC power supply 5 unnecessary, and the current amplifier 2 shall be connected to a coil through the direct capacitor 6. That is, one coil array 1 is an object for magnetic-flux generating, and the coil array 1 of another side is an object for signal detection. Thus, by constituting, the magnetic flux which passed the coin 8 can be detected, the irregularity of both sides of a coin 8 can be simultaneously regarded as a transparency signal of magnetic flux, and high speed signal processing is attained. Moreover, since transparency magnetic flux is detected simultaneously, when a coin 8 is in every location between these coil arrays 1, there is no change of a location in the signal acquired from a coin 8, and a sensor configuration strong against location change of a coin 8 can be realized.

[0023] Next, the operation gestalt of invention of claim 6 is shown in drawing 4. In this drawing, the coin 8 shows the example which leans to the coil array 1. Since the true path of a coin is asked for whenever [this angle-of-inclination] as D=D'/costheta using theta, then diameter D' and costheta of a coin silhouette as mentioned above By also expanding the magnetic picture signal of each coil array 1 1 / costheta double in the direction of a path, and amending it in it, a magnetic picture signal when a coin 8 and the field of the coil array 1 are parallel can be acquired, and an exact truth-or-falsehood judging is attained. In addition, it asks for the above-mentioned include angle theta as follows.

[0024] That is, the acquired silhouette MAG picture signal is trichotomized two-dimensional, from each trichotomized fields A, B, and C, the signal from each sensor is averaged and the value corresponding to the mean distance to a coin

8 is calculated. Since inductance change was become small if a coin 8 separates the signal corresponding to distance in this from the coil array 1, it uses that a signal generally becomes small. Thus, theta is detected whenever [to the coil array 1 of a coin 8 / tilt-angle] by detecting the signal corresponding to the acquired distance from three fields A, B, and C, and taking these ratios or differences. The signal in the condition that this include angle theta was used as the base, and the field and coin 8 of the coil array 1 were parallel is calculated, and truth-or-falsehood differentiation of a coin 8 is performed from the obtained path D.

[0025] Next, drawing 5 explains claims 7 and 8 and the operation gestalt of invention of nine. In drawing 5, in this example, the thin film inductor is made two-layer on both sides of resin 12, and enlarges the inductance value. Moreover, the magnetic-substance core 9 made from the magnetic substance is arranged at the core of the multilayer coil 10 constituted by doing in this way. According to such structure, an inductance increases too. Furthermore, the outgoing line of a multilayer coil 10 is drawn out by the grid-of-pins array method toward the printed circuit board 14 in the same direction as magnetic flux, and the printed circuit board 14 is constituted so that even the current amplifier 2 which is not illustrated in response may draw a signal.

[0026] Next, drawing 6 explains the operation gestalt of invention of claim 10. As invention of claim 10 was already described about signal processing, since a coin 8 is conveyed rotating in the field, when it comes to the front face of the coil array 1, it has an include angle of arbitration, and a truth-or-falsehood judging algorithm unrelated to an include angle is needed. Then, the signal acquired from the coil array 1 as shown in drawing 6 (a) is started in the shape of a concentric circle. For example, like a1, b1, and c1 of this drawing (b), if the signal from each coil is shown in the direction of include-angle phi about concentric circles a, b, and c, it will become. However, an axis of abscissa is an include angle phi in this case.

[0027] The way things stand, each signal changes with angle of rotation phi of a coin, for example, as shown in this drawing (c), data differ. Then, the Fourier transform of this is carried out and it asks for spatial frequency spectrum. That is, as shown in this drawing (d), it asks for a spectrum unrelated to the angle of rotation phi of a coin 8 with the Fourier transform. Thus, a truth-or-falsehood judging unrelated to a revolution of a coin 8 can be performed by taking the method of superposition in comparison with the spectrum memorized by the memory of a microcomputer considering the acquired spectrum signal as a standard coin signal.

[Effect of the Invention] Since a small coil array is realizable by having used the thin film inductor for the coil array according to this invention as stated above, the concavo-convex pattern of a coin can be measured with high resolution. Moreover, by having adopted the magnetic-substance core and the multilayer coil as the coil array, the signal current can be increased and sensibility can be increased. Furthermore, the effectiveness which was [measure / in a high precision / the concavo-convex pattern of a coin, a diameter, construction material, etc.] excellent is acquired by having taken the grid-of-pins array method also about the wiring drawer approach from a coil array.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by having arranged two or more coil arrays in the thickness direction side face of the path through which a coin passes, having detected change of the self-inductance of the coil array accompanying coin passage, and constituting a coil array by the thin film inductor in the coin differentiation equipment which distinguishes the truth or falsehood of a coin by distinguishing the pattern of a coin from the change. [Claim 2] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by equipping with the coil array for surface detection of a coin, and the coil array for rear-face detection the thickness direction both sides of the path through which a coin passes in coin differentiation equipment according to claim 1, respectively.

[Claim 3] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by having arranged two or more coil arrays for dispatch in one side of the thickness direction side face of the path through which a coin passes in coin differentiation equipment according to claim 1, and arranging the coil array for two or more reception in the side face of another side.

[Claim 4] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by making a coil array into a linear array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-3.

[Claim 5] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by making a coil array into an area array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-3.

[Claim 6] A means to compute the silhouette of a coin by comparing an array signal in case a coin is in an array signal in case there is no coin, and a visual field in the visual field of a coil array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-5, A means to trichotomize the obtained silhouette, to compute the average of the array signal of each division silhouette, and to compute the dip direction over the coil array side of a coin, and whenever [tilt-angle] from the ratio or difference of the average, Coin differentiation equipment characterized by having a means for a coin to reproduce a condition parallel to a coil array side from the value of the obtained dip, and to perform truth-or-falsehood distinction.

[Claim 7] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by having the core which becomes from the magnetic substance at the thin film inductor which constitutes a coil array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-6.

[Claim 8] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by carrying out two or more laminatings of the thin film inductor which constitutes a coil array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-7. [Claim 9] Coin differentiation equipment characterized by making the outgoing line of a coil array into the grid-of-pins array structure of a penetration mold in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-8. [Claim 10] A means to change into two or more concentric circle scan signals on the basis of the core of a coin the signal acquired from each coil array in coin differentiation equipment given in any 1 term of claims 1-9, Coin differentiation equipment characterized by having a means to compute spatial frequency spectrum by carrying out the Fourier transform of the acquired concentric circle scan signal, and the means which carries out truth-or-falsehood distinction as compared with the spatial-frequency-spectrum pattern of the criterion which memorized the computed spatial frequency spectrum beforehand.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] They are claims 1, 2, and 4 and drawing showing the configuration of the operation gestalt of invention of five.

[Drawing 2] They are claims 1, 2, and 4 and the circuit diagram showing the configuration of the operation gestalt of invention of five.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing showing arrangement of claims 1, 2, and 4 and the operation gestalt of invention of five.

[Drawing 4] It is the explanatory view showing the configuration of invention of claim 6.

[Drawing 5] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of invention of claim 7-9.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing showing the configuration of invention of claim 10.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the conventional technique.

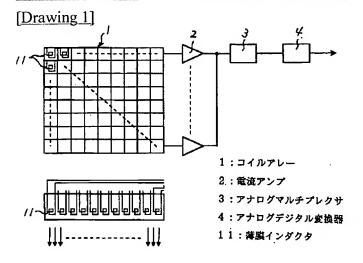
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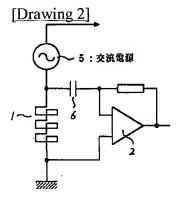
- 1 Coil Array
- 2 Current Amplifier
- 3 Analog Multiplexer
- 4 Analog-to-digital Converter
- 5 AC Power Supply
- 6 Capacitor
- 7 Conveyance Way
- 8 Coin
- 9 Magnetic-Substance Core
- 10 Multilayer Coil
- 11 Coil (Thin Film Inductor)
- 12 Resin
- 13 Penetration Wiring
- 14 Printed Circuit Board
- a, b, c Concentric circle-like MAG picture signal logging field

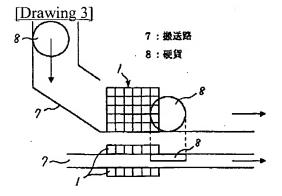
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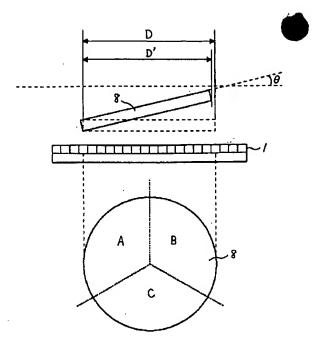
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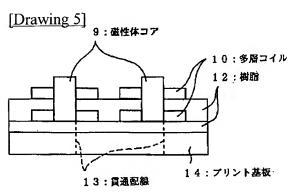


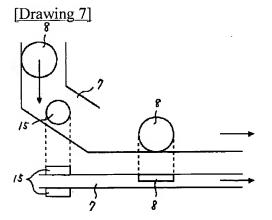




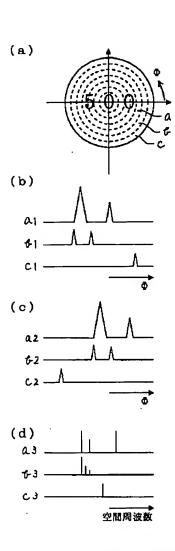
[Drawing 4]







[Drawing 6]



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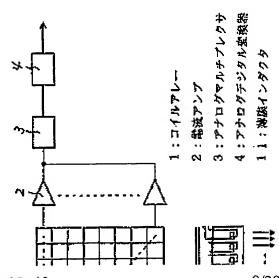
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(54) 【発明の名称】 硬質鑑別装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 硬貨の細かい模様を高分解能で検出可能として真贋判定性能を向上させる。

【解決手段】 観貨8の通過する通路の厚さ方向側面に 複数個のコイルアレー1を配設し、観貨8の通過に伴う コイルアレー1の自己インダクタンスの変化を検知し て、その変化から硬貨8の模様を判別することにより硬 貨8の真贋を判別する硬貨鑑別装置において、コイルア レー1を薄膜インダクタ11により構成する。



(2)

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 】】 硬貨の通過する通路の厚さ方向側面に復 数個のコイルアレーを配設し、硬貨通過に伴うコイルア レーの自己インダクタンスの変化を検知して、その変化 から硬貨の模様を判別することにより硬貨の真贋を判別 する硬貨鑑別装置において、

1

コイルアレーを藤膜インダクタにより構成したことを特 徴とする硬貨鑑別基置。

【請求項2】 請求項1記載の硬貨鑑別装置において、 硬貨の通過する通路の厚さ方向両側に硬貨の表面負出用 10 のコイルアレーと裏面検出用のコイルアレーをそれぞれ 備えたことを特徴とする硬貨艦別差置。

【請求項3】 請求項1記載の硬貨鑑別装置において、 硬貨の通過する通路の厚さ方向側面の一方に複数個の発 信用コイルアレーを配設し、他方の側面に複数個の受信 用のコイルアレーを配設したことを特徴とする硬貨鑑別 装置。

【請求項4】 請求項1~3のいずれか1項に記載の硬 貨鑑別鉴置において、

コイルアレーをリニアアレーとしたことを特徴とする硬 20 貨鑑別装置。

【請求項5】 請求項1~3のいずれか1項に記載の硬 貨鑑別装置において、

コイルアレーをエリアアレーとしたことを特徴とする硬 貨鑑別装置。

【請求項6】 請求項1~5のいずれか1項に記載の硬 貨鑑別装置において、

コイルアレーの視野内に硬貨がないときのアレー信号と 視野内に硬貨があるときのアレー信号を比較して硬貨の シルエットを算出する手段と、

得られたシルエットを3分割し各分割シルエットのアレ ー信号の平均値を算出し、その平均値の比または差から 硬貨のコイルアレー面に対する傾斜方向と傾斜角度とを 算出する手段と

得られた傾斜の値から硬貨がコイルアレー面と平行な状 **感を再現し真魔判別を行う手段と、**

を備えたことを特徴とする硬貨鑑別装置。

【請求項7】 請求項1~6のいずれか1項に記載の硬 貨鑑別装置において、

るコアを備えたことを特徴とする硬貨鑑別装置。

【請求項8】 請求項1~7のいずれか1項に記載の硬 貨額別終置において.

硬貨鑑別装置において、

個々のコイルアレーから得られた信号を、硬貨の中心を 基点とした複数の同心円走査信号に変換する手段と、 得られた同心円走査信号をフーリエ変換して空間周波数

2

スペクトルを算出する手段と、

算出された空間周波数スペクトルを予め記憶しておいた 標準の空間周波数スペクトルバターンと比較して真贋判 別をする季段と、

を備えたことを特徴とする硬貨鑑別装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、自動販売機等に用 いられる硬貨鑑別装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来の硬貨鑑別装置として、図7に示す 装置が知られている。この従来技術は、検出センサの寸 法が大きく硬貨の細かな模様を検出できないため真贋判 別が困難であった。すなわち、図7において、硬貨8の 通路?に配置されたディスクリートコイル15は一方を 発信用コイル、他方を受信用コイルとし、トランスの原 **塑により発信コイル、受信コイル間を硬貨が通過する際** に相互インダクタンスが変化することで硬貨8を検出し ていた。

[0003]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述し た従来技術は、コイルがディスクリートであり上述のよ うにコイルの寸法が大きく硬貨の模様を見るには分解能 が不足しており、そのため検出分解能の向上による真贋 判定性能の向上が要望されていた。そこで本発明は、硬 30 貨の細かな模様を検出できる高分解能な硬貨鑑別装置を 提供しようとするものである。

[0004]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するた め、請求項1の発明は、硬貨の通過する通路の厚き方向 側面に複数個のコイルアレーを配設し、硬貨通過に伴う コイルアレーの自己インダクタンスの変化を検知して、 その変化から硬貨の模様を判別することにより硬貨の真 鷹を判別する硬貨鑑別装置において、コイルアレーを薄 瞳インダクタにより構成したことを特徴とする。このよ コイルアレーを構成する薄膜インダクタに磁性体からな 40 うに、請求項1の発明はコイルアレーを薄膜技術を使っ た薄膜インダクタンスアレー構成とし、従来の個別のコ イルに比較しコイル個々の寸法を大幅に小型化したこと により、高分解能を実現したものである。その原理は、

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已インダクタンス変化をとらえることにより硬貨の材質 チェックも可能である。

【①①①5】請求項2の発明は、請求項1の発明において、硬貨の通過する通路の厚さ方向両側に硬貨の表面検 出用のコイルアレーと裏面検出用のコイルアレーをそれ ぞれ備えたことを特徴とする。

【①①06】請求項3の発明は、請求項1の発明において、硬貨の通過する通路の厚き方向側面の一方に複数個の発信用コイルアレーを配設し、他方の側面に複数個の受信用のコイルアレーを配設したことを特徴とする。すなわち、請求項3の発明は、磁束アレーを発生する第1のコイルアレーとこれと対向した位置にあって磁束変化を検出する第2のコイルアレーを値えており、中間を視貨が通過する際にこれらのコイルアレー間の相互インダクタンスの変化を電流信号としてとらえる構成になっており、これにより硬貨の両面の凹凸の検知を同時に行う。もちろん、硬貨材質の透磁率によってコイルに流れる電流が異なるので、硬貨の材質検知をこの構成で行うとも可能である。

[0007] 語求項4の発明は、請求項1~3の何れか 1項に記載の発明において、コイルアレーをリニアアレーとしたことを特徴とする。すなわち、請求項4の発明 は、コイルアレーを一直線上に配置したリニアアレーと してコイルアレーのコストダウンを図ったものである。 対象の硬貨が移動していることを考えれば、リニアアレーの個々のコイルからの出力電流をアナログマルチフレクサにより順番に検出することにより、リニア状の走査を行い、走査方向と硬貨の移動方向とが垂直の角度をなすように配置することで、硬貨の全面走査を行う。

[0008] 語求項5の発明は、請求項1~3の何れか 30 1項に記載の発明において、コイルアレーをエリアアレーとしたことを特徴とする。このように、請求項5の発明はコイルアレーをエリアアレーとして、検査対象の硬質が基本的には移動しなくても、エリアアレーの面内にあれば硬貨の凹凸が検出できるようにした。すなわち、コイルアレーは交流電源により駆動されるので、コイルの磁束の出射面から硬貨表面までの距離によって、換割すれば凹凸によって信号電流が異なることになり、個々のコイルからの信号を検出すれば硬貨全面の凹凸検出が可能となる。 40

【①①①②】請求項6の発明は、請求項1~5の何れか 1項に記載の発明において、コイルアレーの視野内に硬 皆がないときのアレー信号と視野内に硬度があるときの 【①①1①】換言すると、請求項6の発明は、硬貨のコイルアレーに対する姿勢の補正を信号演算により行い、 鑑別性能を向上させるためのものである。すなわち、まず硬貨の有無によりコイルアレーの個々のコイルに流れる電流は、自己インダクタンスによる方式の場合。 電流 信号に大きな差があるので硬貨の外形を検出することができる。検出した硬貨の外形つまりシルエットの形状は、硬貨がコイルアレー面から傾いていれば楕円となる。そのため、このままの状態で信号検出をしても硬貨表面の凹凸を性格に検出できない。

【①①11】そとで、得られた楕円シルエットを2次元的に3つの領域に分け、各々の領域のコイルアレーの個々のコイルからの信号を検出してその平均値を検出する。一般に、コイルアレー表面から硬貨が遠ざかるほど信号電流は小さくなるので、その平均値を測定すれば、その領域から硬貨までの相対的な平均距離が分かる。ここでは領域が3つあるので、3つの平均値が得られることになる。得られた平均値がいずれも等しければ、硬貨表面とコイルアレー表面とは平行である。平均値に大小がある場合は傾斜していることになり、それぞれの比または差を計算することにより、硬貨の傾斜方向及び傾斜角度が得られる。

【①①12】次に、硬貨の傾斜方向及び傾斜角度分が得 られたら、楕円シルエットの短輪方向に磁気画像信号を 1/cos fだけ拡大する。すなわち極端な例である が、 8 = 6 0° とし、短軸方向のシルエット内の4つの コイルのうち第1のコイルからは1 m A、第2のコイル からは1.2mA、第3のコイルからは0.8mA、第 4のコイルからは(). 9 m A が得られていた場合。1/ $cos60^* = 2$, $yabs40001411 \times 2 = 800$ コイルから信号が得られているように換算し、第1,第 2のコイルからは1mA、第3,4のコイルからは1. 2mA、第5、6のコイルからは0.8mA、第7.8 のコイルからはり、9mAが得られているものとする。 このようにすることで、硬貨のコイルアレーに対する傾 斜を補正し、正確な磁気画像信号を得ることができる。 [0013]請求項7の発明は、請求項1~6の何れか 1項記載の発明において、コイルアレーを構成する薄膜 インダクタに磁性体からなるコアを備えたことを特徴と 40 する。すなわち、請求項7の発明は、薄膜インダクタは 通常空芯であるが、磁気抵抗を減らし効率よく硬貨に磁 東が突き当たるように磁性体からなるコアを用いること

を特徴としており、これにより信号電流を増加させるこ

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【①①15】請求項9の発明は、請求項1~8の何れか 1項記載の発明において、コイルアレーの引き出し根を 貫通型のピングリッドアレー構造としたことを特徴とす る。すなわち、請求項9の発明は、実際にコイルアレー を製造する場合に問題となるコイルの引き出し線につい ての発明であり、コイルの引き出し線を遊菜輪と同方向 にピングリッドアレー構造として引き出し、これを多層 のプリント基板あるいはシリコン基板で受けて電流増幅 用のアンプまで配線することを特徴とする。

[①①16]請求項10の発明は、請求項1~9の何れか1項記載の発明において、個々のコイルアレーから得られた信号を、硬貨の中心を基点とした複数の同心円定確信号に変換する手段と、得られた同心円定確信号をフーリエ変換して空間周波数スペクトルを予め記憶しておいた標準の空間周波数スペクトルを予め記憶しておいた標準の空間周波数スペクトルパターンと比較して真贋判別をする手段とを備えたことを特徴とする。すなわち、請求項10の発明は、信号処理に関するものである。

【①①17】通常、硬貨はその面内で回転して搬送され 20 るため磁気画像信号としては回転結正を行い、真贋判別を行う必要がある。そこでこの発明は回転結正を行うために、得られた画像信号を複数の同心円状に切り出し、この複数の画像信号列の空間回波数分析を行うことにより、回転に無関係であって硬貨の種別に固有なスペクトルを得る。次いで、あらかじめ硬貨の種別ごとに空間回波数スペクトルパターンを標準パターンとして記憶しておき、これとのパターンマッチングにより硬貨の種別判定、真贋判定をする。

[0018]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、図に沿って本発明の実施形態を説明する。図1、図2及び図3は、請求項1、2、4及び5の発明に対応した実施形態を示す構成図である。図1において、コイルアレー1はエリアアレーであり薄膜インダクタ11により構成されている。コイルアレー1の両端は電流アンプ2に接続され、アンプ出力はアナログマルチプレクサ3により切り替えられて個々のコイルアレー1からの信号電流を順次検出し、アナログデジタル変換器4によりデジタル信号に変換された後、図示しないマイクロコンピュータに送られて真贋判定が40行われる。

【0019】とのコイルアレー1は、たとえば電気学会研究会MAG99-41「疎順インダクター体型DC/

アンプ2で増幅され、湾圧信号となる。

【①①2①】との回路をコイルアレー1の数分だけ用意しておくことにより、個々のコイルアレー1からの信号電流が検出される。コイルアレー1は、図3に示すように搬送路7内を搬送されてきた硬貨8がコイル面に対向した位置に接近、あるいは軽れていくような場合に、また、硬貨表面の凹凸、あるいは硬貨の付質等によりその透磁率が変化して自己インダクタンスが変わるので、コイルに流れる電流変化を検出することにより磁気画像信10号が得られる。

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[① ① 2 1] また、硬貨8の両面に図3に示すように上述の自己インダクタンス変化検出型のコイルアレー1を配置すれば、硬貨の両面を同時に検出することができる。更に、特に図示はしていないが、コイルアレー1が線状のリニアアレーであっても硬貨8が鍛送路7により移動する構造になっていれば、硬貨の表面を走査して磁気画像信号を得ることができる。この場合は、コイルアレー1の数及び電流アンブ2の数が減るので、センサのコストダウンが可能となる。

20 【0022】次に、請求項3の発明について、図3を用いて実施形態を説明する。硬貨8の両面にあるコイルアレー1の一方は交流電源に駆動されるコイルアレー1とし、電流アンブ2はなくてもよい。他方のコイルアレー1は、交流電源5を不要としてコイルに直接コンデンサ6を介して電流アンプ2が接続されているものとする。すなわち一方のコイルアレー1は磁東発生用であり、他方のコイルアレー1は信号検出用である。このように構成することにより、硬貨8を通過した磁束を検出するので、これらのコイルアレー1の間のどの位置に硬貨8がある場合でも、硬貨8から得いる信号に位置の変化はなく、硬貨8の位置変化に強いセンサ構成を実現することができる。

[10023]次に、請求項6の発明の実施形態を図4に示す。同図において、硬貨8はコイルアレー1に対して傾いている例を示している。前述のようにこの傾き角度を分とすれば、硬貨シルエットの直径D とこのsのとを用いて、硬貨の真の径はD=D /このsのとして求められるので、個々のコイルアレー1の磁気画像信号も径方向に1/このsの倍拡大して結正することにより、硬貨8とコイルアレー1の面とが平行になったときの磁気画像信号を得ることができ、正確な真摩判定が可能と

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ことを利用したものである。このようにして得られた距離に対応する信号を3つの領域A、B、Cから検出し、これらの比あるいは差をとることにより、硬貨8のコイルアレー1に対する傾斜角度 もを検出する。この角度 もをベースにしてコイルアレー1の面と硬貨8が平行になった状態での信号を演算し、得られた径Dから硬貨8の真魔鑑別を行う。

[0025]次に、請求項7,8,9の発明の実施形態を図5により説明する。図5において、薄膜インダクタはこの例では樹脂12を挟んで2層化しており、インダクタンス値を大きくしている。また、このようにして構成された多層コイル10の中心には、磁性体を特料とした磁性体コア9が配置されている。このような構造により、やはりインダクタンスが増大する。さらに、多層コイル10の引き出し線は磁束と同一方向にピングリッドアレー方式でプリント基板14に向って引き出されており、プリント基板14はこれを受けて図示しない電流アンプ2まで信号を導くように構成されている。

【りり26】次に、請求項10の発明の実施形態を図6により説明する。請求項10の発明は信号処理に関する 20ものであり、既に述べたように硬貨8はその面内で回転しながら鍛送されるのでコイルアレー1の前面に来たときは任意の角度になっており、角度に無関係な真贋判定アルゴリズムが必要となる。そこで、図6(a)に示すようにコイルアレー1から得られた信号を同心円状に切り出す。例えば、同心円a、b、cについて角度中方向に各コイルからの信号を示すと、同図(b)のa1,b1、c1のようになる。但し、この場合構軸は角度のである。

[0027]とのままでは各信号は硬貨の回転角度やに 30より変化し、たとえば同図(c)のようにデータが異なってくる。そこでこれをフーリエ変換し、空間周波数スペクトルを求める。すなわち、同図(d)に示すようにフーリエ変換により硬貨8の回転角度中に無関係なスペクトルを求める。このようにして得られたスペクトル信号を、標準の硬貨信号としてマイクロコンピュータのメモリに記憶されているスペクトルと比較するパターンマッチング法をとることで、硬貨8の回転に無関係な真贋判定を行うことができる。

[0028]

【発明の効果】以上述べたように本発明によれば、コイルアレーに薄膜インダクタを用いたことにより、小型のコイルアレーを実現できるので、硬貨の凹凸模様を高い分解能で測定できる。また、コイルアレーに磁性体コア及び多層コイルを採用したことにより、信号電流を増して感度を増大させることができる。さらに、コイルアレーからの配線引き出し方法についてもピングリッドアレー方式をとったことにより、硬貨の凹凸模様、直径、材質等を高い精度で測定できる等の優れた効果が得られる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】請求項1,2,4、5の発明の実施形態の構成 を示す図である。

【図2】請求項1,2,4、5の発明の実施形態の構成を示す回路図である。

【図3】請求項1,2,4、5の発明の実施形態の配置を示す図である。

【図4】請求項6の発明の構成を示す説明図である。

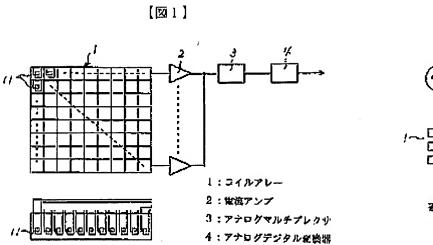
3 【図5】請求項7~9の発明の構成を示す断面図である。

【図6】請求項10の発明の構成を示す図である。

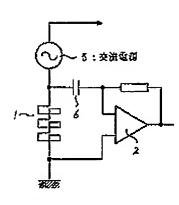
【図7】従来技術を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

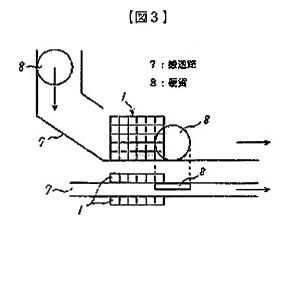
- 1 コイルアレー
- 2 電流アンプ
- 3 アナログマルチプレクサ
- 4 アナログデジタル変換器
- 5 交流電源
- 3 6 コンデンサ
 - 7 搬送路
 - 8 競貨
 - 9 磁性体コア
 - 10 多層コイル
 - 11 コイル(藤膜インダクタ)
 - 12 勧脂
 - 13 貢通配線
 - 14 プリント基板
 - a, b, c 同心円状磁気画像信号切り出し領域

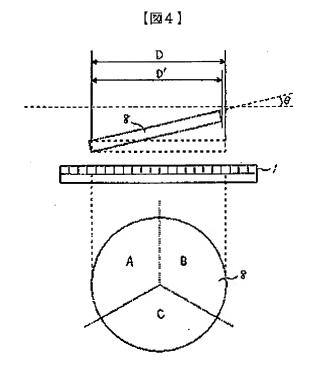


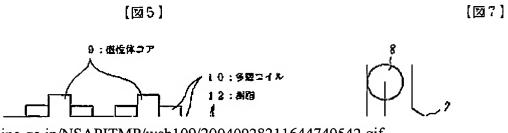
11:苺製インダクタ



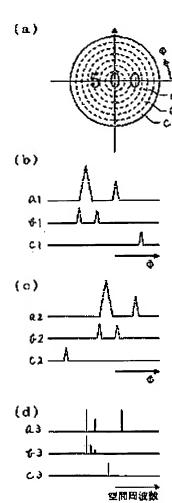
[図2]











フロントページの続き

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